

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 11983 201432Z

53

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11983

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, ECLA

SUBJECT: ECLA REGIONAL MEETING ON HABITAT MEXICO CITY: WRAP-UP

1. AS PROGRAMMED, ECLA HABITAT CONFERENCE ENDED FRIDAY AFTERNOON WITH APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS OF CONFERENCE REPORT. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE LATIN GROUP DURING THE MORNING, THE BRAZILIANS AND COLOMBIANS WITHDREW THEIR RESER-
ATIONS, THEREBY DELETING ANY REFERENCE TO THE LATIN GROUP PAPER ON GLOBAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE LATIN GROUP IN NEW YORK. (OUR UNDER-
STANDING IS THAT THE FINAL PAPER HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO EMPHASIZE RESHAPING OF EXISTING UN MECHANISMS WITH NO DESIRE TO CREATE ANY NEW AGENCY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PAPER RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL POST. FROM AFAR, THE PROPOSAL HAS A CATCH-22 QUALITY, BUT THEN SO HAS THE ISSUE.

2. ASIDE FROM THE USUAL COMPLIMENTARY STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE CLOSE BY MEXICO (HOST GOVERNMENT), THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (ON BEHALF OF ALL DELS), PENALOSA (HABITAT SYG), THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT (MINISTER ORALLE)
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 11983 201432Z

MADE A RATHER LENGTHLY THOUGH EXCELLENT CLOSING STATEMENT.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULTIES SOME DELS HAVE HAD IN HAVING ADEQUATE TIME TO REVIEW DOCUMENTS PRESENTED, BUT THANKED ALL FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. HE COMPLIMENTED NATIONS NOT PART OF THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION (DCS) ON THEIR COLLABORATION AND HOPED THAT WITH A BETTER CLARIFICATION OF LATIN PURPOSES AND NEEDS THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD. HIS STATEMENT IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE BENEFITS TO THE REGION RESULTING FROM DC PARTICIPATION.

3. THE TONE OF OVALLE'S REMARKS AND THE MOOD OF THE CONFERENCE ITSELF WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THE INDEPENDENCE DAY SENSE OF GOOD FEELINGS AND GENUINE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE MEXICANS TO CREATE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US DEL AS WELL AS OTHER DCS. OUR REACTION TO THE CREATION OF A LATIN GROUP ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN GENERALLY EXPRESSED IN OUR STATEMENT MADE PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT, INFORMALLY WITH THE MEXICANS AND REPEATEDLY WITH THE ECLA SECRETARIAT, HAD BEEN DULY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PROPER PARTIES. THESE AS WELL AS OTHER LA DELS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE WERE FULLY AWARE OF OUR VIEWS ON THE CREATION OF A GROUP EXCLUDING US AND THE OTHER DCS. (THE OTHER DCS PRESENT - CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS - ALSO EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS.) HOWEVER, THIS REPORT DOES NOT CREATE ANY SUCH BODY PER SE, BUT RATHER RECOMMENDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE. THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE FINALLY ACTED UPON AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF ECLA IN 1977. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND AND THE POSSIBILITY IGLESIAS MAY WELL BE EFFECTIVE IN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO GET THIS MEMBERSHIP QUESTION REVERSED, WE THOUGHT IT WISEST NOT TO MAKE A SEPARATE INTERVENTION AT THE FINAL SESSION.

4. THE REGIONAL COOPERATION RESOLUTION REFLECTS THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE WORK. IT IS THE FIRST EFFORT BY ANY REGION TO MAKE TANGIBLE PROPOSALS FOR HABITAT FOLLOW-UP ACTION. THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT (ASIDE FROM THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A COORDINATING MECHANISM BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS), WHICH COULD PROVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 11983 201432Z

BE THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECT OF THE REPORT, IS THE RECOMMENDATION (PARA B (2) (D)) WHICH REQUESTS ECLA TO DEFINE REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMS, AND EXPERIMENTAL PILOT PROJECTS FOR RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. THE ATTITUDES EXPRESSED BY MEMBER DELEGATES, BOTH TECHNICIANS AND MINISTERS ALIKE, SUGGEST THAT THE LATINS DEALING WITH HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MATTERS HAVE GREATER CONFIDENCE THAT

USEFUL PROJECTS CAN BE DEFINED AND DESIGNED BY A REGION-
AL INSTRUMENTALITY, SUCH AS ECLA, THAN ANY CENTRAL BODY.
ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT ECLA INTENDS TO MAKE A
CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO PROVE THEM RIGHT.

5. MEXICO SENDING HIGH LEVEL DEL TO 31ST UNGA O/A
OCTOBER 25 TO HANDLE THIS ITEM IN COMITE II. WE HAVE
ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH AND
CONTINUE COOPERATIVE QUEST FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR HABITAT FOLLOW-UP. BELIEVE U.S.
ACHIEVED A PLUS IN THIS EXERCISE.
THOMPSON

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